

VENTURA POLICE

2021 ANNUAL REPORT





AT YOUR SERVICE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHIEF

As my second year as Police Chief comes to a close, I am pleased to present the Ventura Police Department 2021 Annual Report. After a couple decades of absence, the annual report is being brought back in continuance of our commitment to transparency and enhancing police and community collaboration. This report is intended to present a brief snapshot into police operations and bring awareness of local crime trends, public safety and problem-solving strategies, as well as information about organizational operations, crime reporting, arrest information, calls for service, response times, and community outreach. Staffed with nearly 250 sworn, professional staff, and volunteers, the men and women of the Ventura Police Department pride themselves on serving and protecting this community.

As we moved into the second year of a global pandemic, everyday responses to community concerns, proactive policing efforts, and quality of life issues related to vagrancy continued to account for a significant number of calls for service. Our nation experienced concerning surges in violent crime this last year, especially in larger cities. In Ventura, the crime rate remained relatively stable, with an overall reduction in Part 1 Crime of 3.5 percent; however, we did experience an increase in some violent crimes. The year ended with a 5 percent reduction in property crime and a 15 percent increase in violent offenses like robberies, sexual assaults, and aggravated assaults.

As I look at the changing landscape ahead, I see a lot of hope and promise. The dedicated men and women of the Ventura Police Department will continue to serve with the utmost professionalism and integrity. As we move forward in 2022 and beyond, we will continue to forge new partnerships and will approach each day with community service at the forefront of what we do. A big thank you to every member of our talented team for another year of selflessness and excellence in serving the community.

Darin Schindler, Police Chief





OUR MISSION

To protect, serve, and problem solve with our community

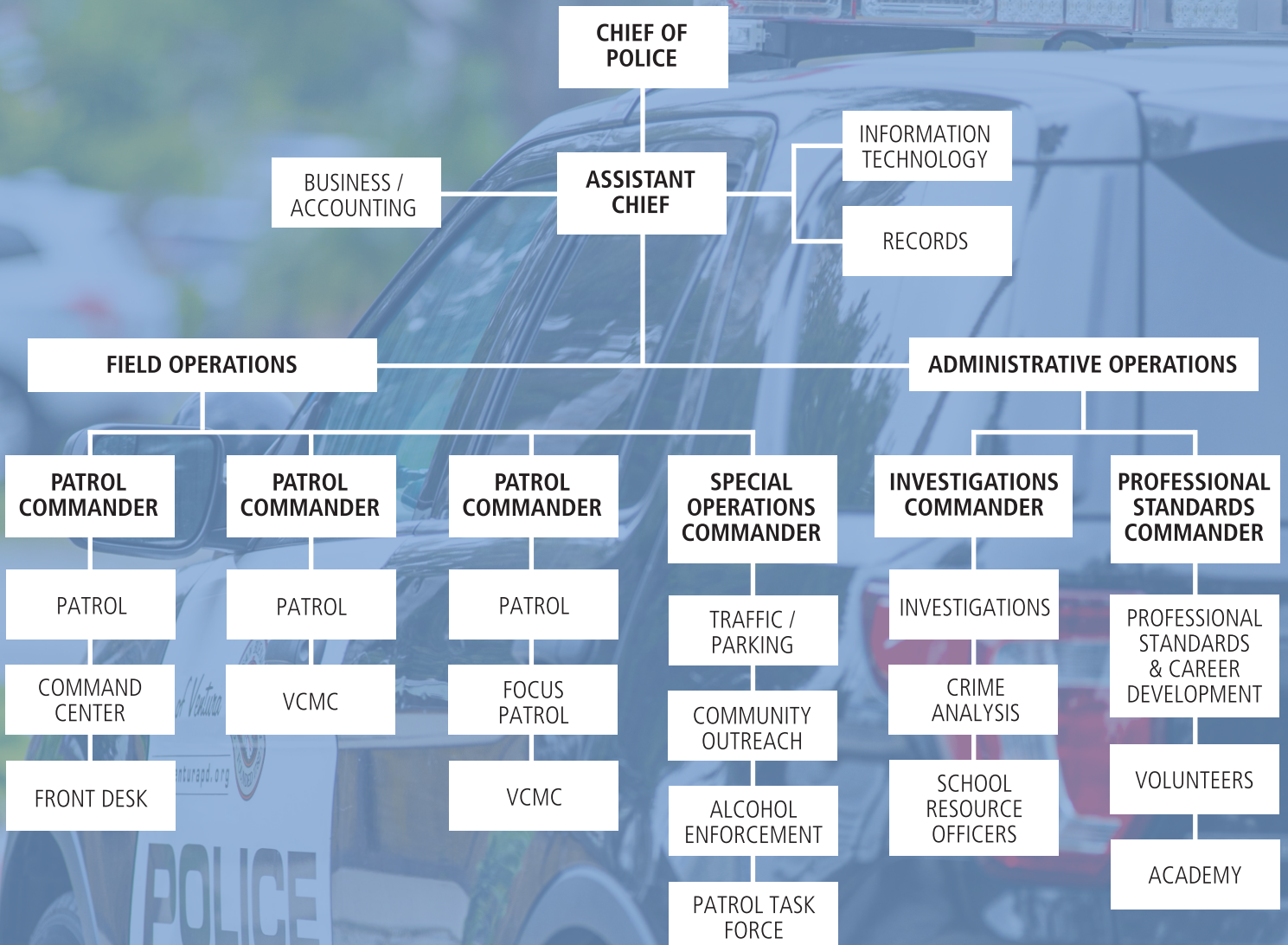
OUR VISION

Great people, providing exceptional service

OUR VALUES

Excellence, Integrity, Professional, Respect, Transparent

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



137

SWORN POLICE
OFFICERS

46

FULL-TIME
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

25

PART-TIME
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

40

VOLUNTEERS



AROUND THE CLOCK COVERAGE
FOR THE SAFETY OF VENTURA



WELLNESS



Evidence shows the individual actions of police officers have the greatest impact on a community's perception of police legitimacy. When officers are equipped to deal with adverse reactions to stress, they are better prepared to handle situations fairly, respectfully, empathetically, and calmly. Additionally, 7 in 10 first responders say they'd be more likely to seek professional counseling if a leader in their organization spoke openly and encouraged it. By creating a culture of mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing and by investing in our officers, we can improve health and trust. In turn, this leads to more positive contacts, fewer negative interactions, and less stress, ultimately resulting in increased job satisfaction, a higher quality work environment, and better service to our community.

In 2021, our Wellness Program expanded even further and in addition to the on-duty exercise program, our strong peer support, and critical incident debriefings, we now have a mental health and wellness component **requiring** all officers, dispatchers, and crime scene investigators to complete an annual check-in with a mental health clinician. The program is also available to all non-mandated employees.

WHEN YOU CALL

WE RESPOND

The Ventura Police Department serves the City of Ventura, which is home to over 100,000 residents. Additionally, the city has a variety of offerings bringing tourists and visitors on a daily basis. Downtown Ventura, the Ventura Community College District, the Ventura County Jail and Government Center, and the Ventura County Medical Center are just a few of the large draws for visitors. Beyond that, Ventura is home to state beaches, trails, parks, and thriving businesses.



Our Communications Center operates around the clock with 3 sworn, 2 Senior Dispatchers, 1 Training Coordinator, and 14 Dispatchers. Ventura PD is the Public Safety Answering Point in Ventura for all emergency calls (Police, Fire, EMS). In 2021, we received a grant allowing us to upgrade our phone systems, bringing them in compliance with NextGen 911. Our center also offers "Text to 911" for residents in a scenario where they're unable to make a phone call.

PRIORITY

1

1,351
EMERGENCY



86,000
CALLS FOR SERVICE

2

19,001
URGENT- THREAT TO PROPERTY
OR PUBLIC SAFETY

3

20,872
DISTURBANCE- NO THREAT TO
PROPERTY OR PUBLIC SAFETY

4

15,404
NON-URGENT

5

26,727
INVESTIGATIONS



68,000
911 CALLS

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME TO PRIORITY 1 CALLS

2020 4:51

2021 4:44

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME TO PRIORITY 2 CALLS

2020 10:12

2021 8:44

AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME TO PRIORITY 3 CALLS

2020 33:12

2021 25:26



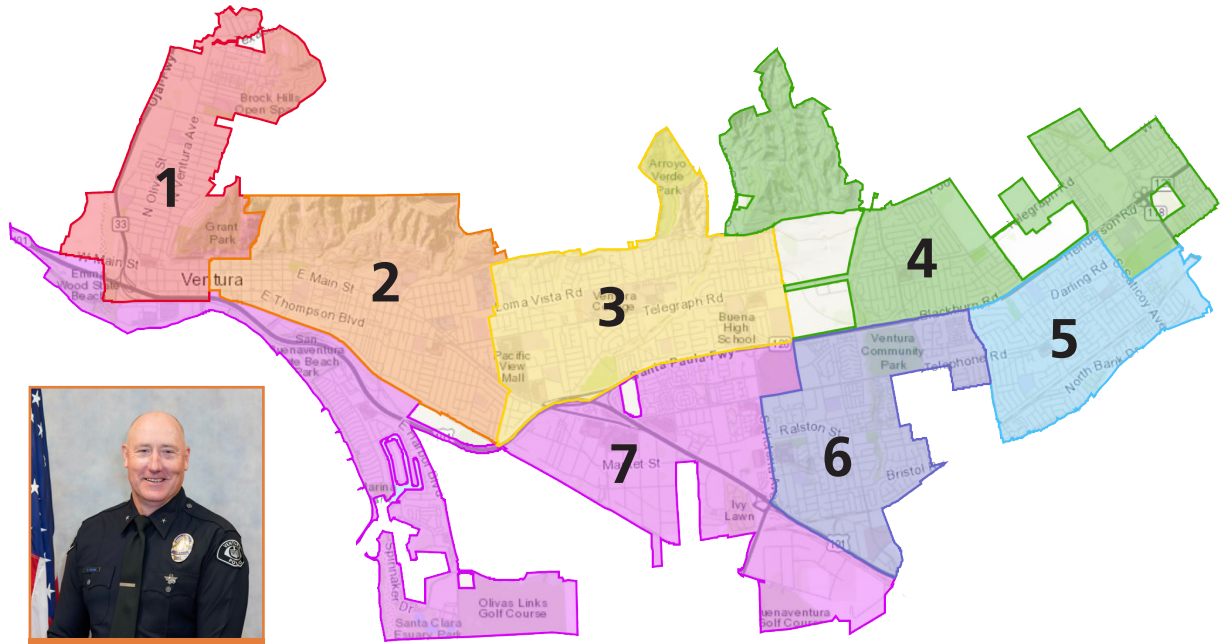
OUR TARGET RESPONSE
TIME TO PRIORITY 1 CALLS
IS **LESS** THAN 5:00 MINUTES

4:44

WAS OUR AVERAGE
RESPONSE TIME

DISTRICT COMMANDERS

To strengthen community partnerships, increase collaboration, and streamline problem solving efforts in each area of town, a VPD Commander has been assigned to work with each councilmember and Neighborhood Community Council to better serve residents and businesses.



SARAH HEARD

sheard@venturapd.org



DARRICK BRUNK

dbrunk@venturapd.org



RICK MURRAY

rmurray@venturapd.org



RYAN WEEKS

rweeks@venturapd.org



SAM ARROYO

saarroyo@venturapd.org



MATT CAIN

mcain@venturapd.org



DAVID DICKEY

ddickey@venturapd.org



135,036
UNIT RESPONSES



16,024
POLICE REPORTS
PROCESSED



4,895
ARRESTS



OUR TRAINING



As part of our three-year Strategic Plan to focus on our most important resources, our Team, we committed to: maintaining 100% compliance with the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) requirements, increase statewide POST training courses hosted at VPD, and maintain POST certified instructors in key training dimensions.

In 2021, we were 100% within POST compliance, increased the hosting of POST training courses at VPD by 300%, and maintained POST certified officers as training instructors in critical perishable skills areas. These include Emergency Vehicles Operations, Force Options, Defensive Tactics, De-escalation, and Tactical Firearms.

ANNUAL OFFICER TRAINING: 50-60 hours

Sworn officers attend an **8-10 hour** in-service training day once every two months. Training topics include a legal update, implicit bias, defensive tactics, firearms training, defensive driving, use of force, de-escalation, active shooter, scenario-based training, less lethal munitions, CPR, tactical communications, and much more.

WEEKLY OFFICER TRAINING

Sworn officers engage in a **15-30 minute** training three times per week during patrol briefing covering topics such as officer safety, officer rescue, searching techniques, emergency casualty care, case law, and more.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING: 7,378 total hours

Specialized training hours cover officers that were sent to specialized training in addition to VPD's required on-going trainings.

Areas of training include, but are not limited to: radar and lidar operator course, interview & interrogation, crisis intervention, homicide investigations, narcotics investigations, survival tactics, firearms instructor, drug abuse recognition, hostage rescue, tactical dispatch, traffic collision investigation, assertive supervision, women leaders in law enforcement, school campus safety, force options, de-escalation, range master, field training officer, supervisor course, advanced roadside impairment enforcement, gang investigations, peer support, and more.

SPECIAL WEAPONS & TACTICS (SWAT): 192 hours minimum, annually

Members of our SWAT team complete **80 hours** of initial SWAT School training and a required **16 hours** per month of ongoing team training. Specialty SWAT training includes 80 hours of sniper school, 32 hours of breaching tools instructor training, 16 hours of chemical agent instructor training, 16 hours of Diversionary Distraction Device instructor training, 16 hours of flashbang instructor training, and 32 hours of hostage rescue training.



INVESTIGATIONS

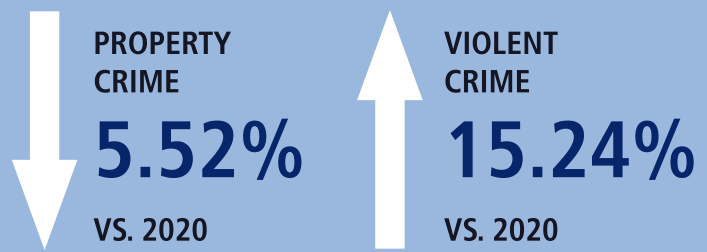
MAJOR CRIMES UNIT- investigates homicides, major felonies, officer involved shootings, incidents with injured or threatened officers, and gang-related crimes.

SPECIAL VICTIMS' UNIT- investigates sex crimes, domestic violence, child abuse, elder/dependant adult abuse, missing persons, human trafficking, and sex offender registration compliance. These detectives are also specially trained in Child Forensic Interview skills.

STREET CRIMES UNIT- investigates residential and commercial burglaries, stolen vehicles, street robberies, fraud, and engage in undercover operations, high-risk arrests, and surveillance.

NARCOTICS UNIT- investigates narcotics sales, overdose deaths, narcotics manufacturing, and engage in high risk arrest operations and undercover surveillance.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE TECHNICIANS- handle red-light photo enforcement, body-worn video evidence, larceny, vandalism, fraud, missing persons investigations, sex offender registration and compliance, evidence disposal, and follow-ups. In 2021, our 5 CITs completed 450 investigations.



**ROBBERIES
INCREASED BY
7.45%**

**ARSON
DECREASED BY
35.48%**

**AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
INCREASED BY
16.92%**

**VEHICLE THEFT
DECREASED BY
13.92%**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT
INCREASED BY
35.48%**

**BURGLARY
DECREASED BY
9.57%**

BY THE NUMBERS

Major Crimes	201 cases	57 arrests
Special Victims	199 cases	53 arrests
Narcotics	139 cases	33 arrests
Property	964 cases	221 arrests
Probation Searches	531 searches	124 arrests

FINAL PART ONE UCR CRIMES - 2021

Part 1 Offenses	Jan to Dec 2021	Jan to Dec 2020	%change	# Diff	Crime per 1,000 pop	Clearance by Arrest	% Cleared
HOMICIDE	0	2	-100.00%	-2	0.00	0	0.00%
RAPE	42	31	35.48%	11	0.40	2	4.76%
ROBBERY	101	94	7.45%	7	0.96	47	46.53%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	235	201	16.92%	34	2.23	126	53.62%
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	378	328	15.24%	50	3.59	175	46.30%
BURGLARY - TOTAL	416	460	-9.57%	-44	3.95	67	16.11%
BURGLARY - Residential	127	167	-24.55%	-41	1.20		
BURGLARY - Non Residential	289	293	-1.02%	-3	2.75		
LARCENY-THEFT	2275	2354	-3.36%	-79	21.58	269	11.82%
VEHICLE THEFT (10851)	235	273	-13.92%	-38	2.23	46	19.57%
ARSON	20	31	-35.48%	-11	0.19	10	50.00%
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	2946	3118	-5.52%	-172	27.95	392	13.31%
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	3,324	3,446	-3.54%	-122	31.53	567	17.06%
2021 DOF Population E-1 Table		105,415					





CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATIONS

Our two crime scene investigators are on call 24/7, 365 days a year. They respond to crime scenes in Ventura and primary field duties include photography and documenting and collecting all evidence like fingerprints, DNA, shoewear impressions, and ballistics. In addition to responding to crime scenes and conducting follow-up, with the department's own Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), they were able to provide additional in-house services to increase efficiency in investigations.



82

CALLS FOR SERVICE



1,400

LATENT PRINT COMPARISONS



46

AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM SUBMISSIONS



42

LATENT PRINT IDENTIFICATIONS

PROPERTY

Our two police services officers in our Property Room handle intake, storage, preservation, and organization of all property and evidence. They also prepare evidence disposition paperwork, items for auction, narcotics and weapons for destruction, and coordinate evidence viewings.

BOOKED INTO PROPERTY

\$93,417.06

CASH ONLY

10,695

TOTAL ITEMS, NOT INCLUDING NARCOTICS AND MONEY

285

FIREARMS

270

BICYCLES

REPORTED STOLEN

\$3,610,687.57

BOTH CASH AND FRAUDULENT CHARGES

13,224

TOTAL ITEMS, NOT INCLUDING NARCOTICS AND MONEY

25

FIREARMS

351

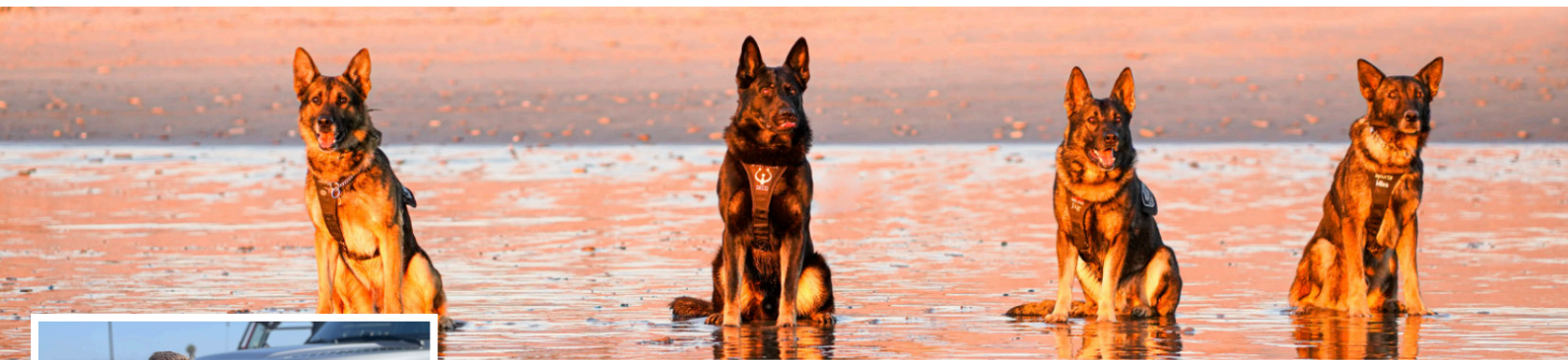
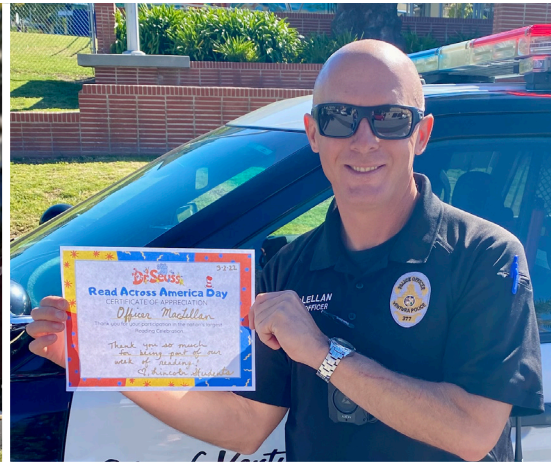
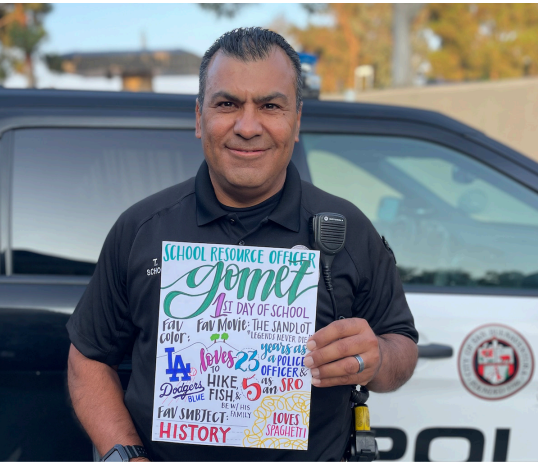
BICYCLES



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Our three School Resource Officers help ensure a safe and secure environment for Ventura's students. They are assigned full time to Ventura, Buena, Pacific and Foothill High Schools and also work with staff and students at the District's middle and elementary schools to address issues and concerns as they arise. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic impacting the '20-'21 school year, SROs were on site upon request. In April 2021, they returned to campus full-time. In 2021, they spent **4,440 hours supporting school district needs.**

School Resource Officers handle hundreds of calls ranging from social media campus threats and suspicious individuals on campus to traffic concerns, lockdowns, and smaller requests on a case by case basis. They also train VUSD staff on proper lockdown and active assailant procedures to keep students safe. Finally, they engage in dozens of safety presentations and educational campaigns on campuses all across Ventura.



Our five K9 teams provide protection to our community 24/7. All canines past and present have been paid for through the generosity of our community donors, which helped pay for the canines, their training, medical bills, protective gear, and much more! In July 2021, Officer Devon Anderson was partnered with **K9 Defender** when they entered training together. Defender was purchased through a generous donation from Land Rover Jaguar and specializes in Urban Tracking and Narcotics Detection.

Our K9 Unit assisted multiple local agencies with explosives and narcotics detection, tracking of wanted suspects, aided the Sheriff's Office with clearing a Ventura County high school and in clearing the Reagan Library prior to a large political event. In 2021, the canines located dozens of pounds of illegal narcotics and firearms. In some instances, the firearms were tossed and may not have been found without the assistance of the K9. Finally, they were also used to locate at risk missing children and elderly individuals with dementia.



In 2021,
the unit
engaged in:



2,400
HOURS OF
TRAINING



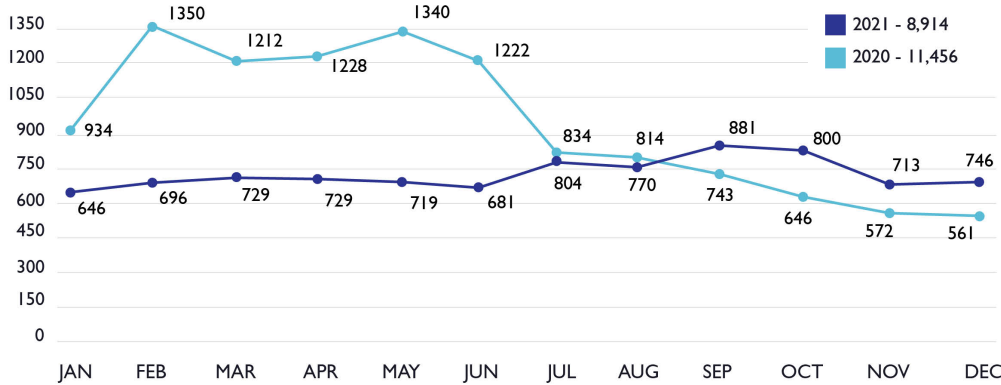
1,895
TRAINING
EXERCISES



20+
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

PATROL TASK FORCE

DECREASE COMPLAINTS RELATED TO VAGRANCY



The Patrol Task Force (PTF) was formed to address crime trends and problem areas with the goal of restorative policing and street outreach with unhoused individuals.

PTF officers do not handle everyday calls for service, but in turn, have the time and flexibility to address identified quality of life issues. They work with chronic vagrancy offenders or displaced people by uniting them with friends, family, or services that can help with

medical attention and customized recovery plans. As part of our Strategic Plan to increase and strengthen partnerships with local community stakeholders, we've been actively working with Backpack Medicine, the Community Intervention Court, Downtown Ventura's Family Reconnection Program, the Salvation Army's Safe Sleep Program, various Ventura County Behavioral Health clinicians and crisis team members, and the ARCH, a low-barrier shelter located in the City of Ventura to serve those in need.

We also have a goal of decreasing community complaints related to vagrancy. Measuring calls for service related to vagrancy helps to define the scope and depth of the problem and serves as an indicator of the success of citywide strategies implemented to address the issue.



11 river bottom clean-ups



117 roll-off dumpsters filled



732 reports



997,100 lbs of trash removed



34 homeless individuals reunited with family



270 citations



365 arrests



TRAFFIC UNIT

Grant funding through the California Office of Traffic Safety allows us to host DUI checkpoints (education), DUI saturations (enforcement), bike and pedestrian safety presentations, and upgrade safety equipment. In 2021, we made **3,121** contacts through OTS funded operations focusing on changing driving behavior to reduce collisions. Our Traffic Unit by the numbers:



5,427 citations issued



1,012 total traffic collision investigations, including 386 injury & 5 fatal collisions



4 DUI checkpoints

resulting in 1,676 drivers contacted, 62 Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, 48 citations issued, and 2 DUI arrests



17 DUI saturation events

resulting in 271 stops, 167 Standardized Field Sobriety Tests, and 26 DUI arrests



131 grant funded events

resulting in 1,857 driver contacts and 848 citations issued

The Ventura Police Traffic Unit provides proactive enforcement of vehicle code laws, completes traffic collision investigations and reconstructions, manages special event traffic safety, and aims to reduce the number of traffic collisions in Ventura by making recommendations for traffic control improvements. Proactive enforcement is also provided by Traffic cadets who manage downtown parking enforcement, parking structures, over-sized vehicles, and towing abandoned vehicles.



USE OF FORCE

4,895

ARRESTS

107

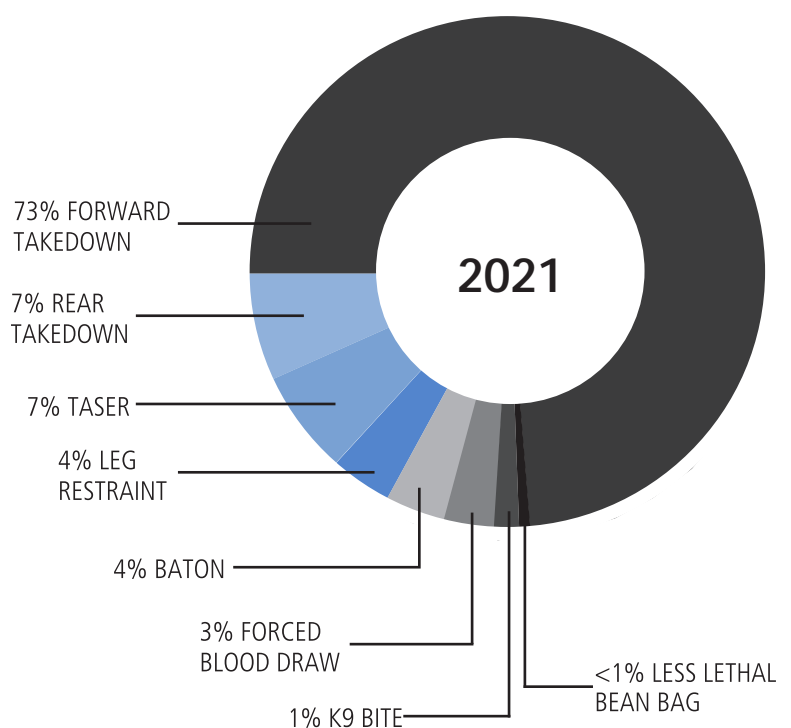
USE OF FORCE
INCIDENTS

0

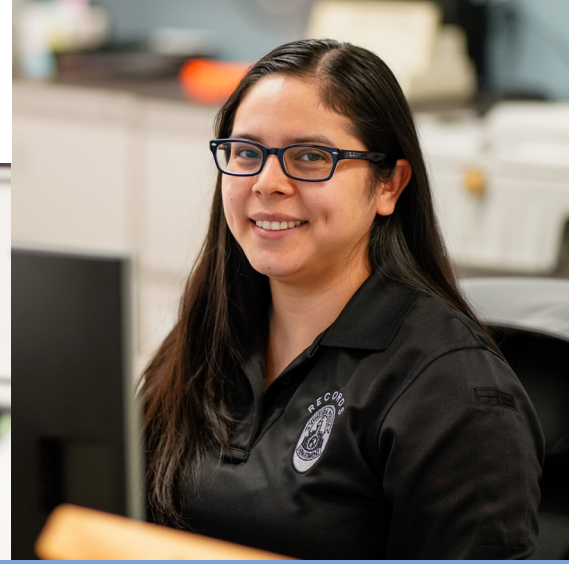
OUT OF
POLICY

We are committed to the sanctity of life for all persons and our policy requires officers to use only the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in any given situation. If an officer is faced with an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury, the officer may not have the time to attempt to exhaust lower levels of force. Our officers are trained to go immediately to the most appropriate level of force. (Policy 300.3)

Our policy also requires officers to document all uses of force promptly, completely, and accurately. These reports are approved by a supervisor and then reviewed by our Tactical Review Committee. Additionally, our patrol officers are required to wear body worn cameras and activate them whenever enforcement action is anticipated. (Policy 300.5)



RECORDS



Our Records Unit, comprised of a manager, supervisor, and 6 technicians, complete critical tasks like public records requests, authenticating and processing reports, entering stolen vehicles and missing persons into statewide databases, responding to subpoenas, completing uniform crime reporting, and supporting a central repository for records. They also store, maintain, and retrieve all crime, traffic accidents, vehicle, and arrest reports. In 2021, we went live with a field-based reporting program, Versaterm Records Management System, and Records team members have remained flexible as we move to a nearly paperless system.

Attachments scanned	35,747
Reports Processed	16,024
Report Releases	12,779
Citations	6,117
External Requests	6,093
Arrest Reports	4,835
Online reports	1,043

OUR VOLUNTEERS



7,706
MILES TRAVELED



2,250
HOURS DONATED



871
FOCUS PATROLS



647
CITATIONS ISSUED



A special thank you to our 40 wonderful volunteers for their service to our community. We couldn't do what we do without their dedication.

WHAT'S NEW



Our 25 cadets help to maintain police vehicles, and work in parking enforcement, assist at checkpoints, direct traffic for special events and help out as needed. We're always in need of cadets to join our team. Learn more and apply today: www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Cadets.



It's with heavy hearts we share the passing of K9 Yoschi. All VPD K9 handlers, Yoschi's trainer, and Yoschi's best friend, Officer Keith Therrien, were with him as he passed away peacefully. Yoschi retired in March of 2021 after a life of service and set the bar high for future K9s. He is deeply missed.



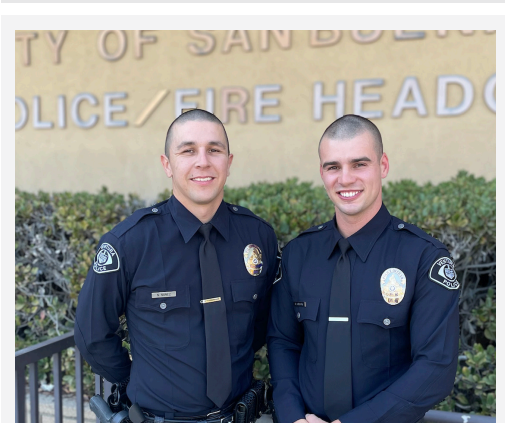
Our new **Alcohol Enforcement Officer**, Tyler Buck, oversees all Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) licenses, alcohol sales permits, and compliance in the city. Ventura has over 350 alcohol establishments, the most in Ventura County, and he also educates those local businesses on underage drinking and sales to minors concerns.



The **Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)** team provides specialized support in handling critical field operations where rescue response and tactical communications and deployment methods are necessary for a peaceful resolution. Our Crisis Negotiations Team is also deployed to many of these incidents.



Six Ventura Police officers work as **Enhanced Patrol**, with two assigned daily during peak calls for service hours. Their focus is on Strategic Plan goals of Crime Control and Safe Neighborhoods by reducing responses times to priority calls and patrolling areas impacted by quality of life concerns.



In 2021, we welcomed **10 new officers** to our Ventura PD team. Congratulations Lateral Officer Justin Fernandez, and Officers David Anderson, Jerred Bartmann, Nicholas Gendreau, David De La Garrigue, Chris Gomez, Joshua Ming, Liliana Zarate, Tristan Cullum, and Nicholas Nunez. Eight of them have completed their six month academy and six month field training program and are proud to protect and serve Ventura! Our newest officers are still completing their field training and will be on their own come April 2022!



Our Ventura Police **K9 Unit** is funded solely through local community donations and is utilized to keep schools safe and help locate criminal offenders, evidence, explosives, narcotics, missing individuals, and to connect with residents at community events. Make a donation at www.VenturaPDK9.com.



Come 2022, we are excited to announce new community oriented initiatives including the launch of an Explorer Program for local teens to learn more about law enforcement, a new and improved neighborhood watch program with increased officer participation, and our 10-week Community Academy aimed at increasing transparency with residents.

CONNECT WITH US:

www.VenturaPD.org

In 2021, we shared over **415** messages on our social media platforms, reaching over **1.7 million** people. Follow along for important crime stats, and safety, crime prevention, and community engagement information.



@venturapolice
38,875 followers



@venturapolice
26,200 followers



@Ventura_PD
7,075 followers



Ventura Police
43,100 followers



www.youtube.com/cityofventura
18 videos uploaded to the VPD playlist

OUR COMMUNITY



In May, 3 VPD officers met a local cardiac arrest survivor and his family. They wanted to meet the first responders who saved their dad's life. It's incidents like these where seconds truly count. Officers Orozco, Tovar, and Utermohlen were instrumental in performing CPR and saving a life.



Our three School Resource Officers participated in dozens of school and daycare safety presentations for local elementary school kids. They talked about community helpers, traffic safety, bike safety, and answered many creative questions.



In October, we joined a fall festival and trunk-or-treat events and enjoyed sharing Halloween safety tip and handing out Junior Crimefighter stickers, pencils, bike lights, and candy!



In partnership with the Ventura Police Community Foundation, we hosted the 23rd annual PAL Golf Tournament honoring Retired Chief Ken Corney; funds raised go toward youth programs in Ventura. It's these programs that allow us to build relationships and strengthen bonds with our young residents!



On November 11, our officers who've previously served in the U.S. military spent a special afternoon kayaking in the Ventura Harbor with local kids from the City's after-school programs. They paddled into open water, met sea lions, and enjoyed a day of exploration together!



After more than a year with no Coffee with a Cop events, we were able to host our first one since the start of the pandemic at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf! These smaller, more intimate engagement opportunities allow us to slow down and have more relaxed, valuable conversations with residents. At this event specifically, we hosted a toy drive supporting VCMC kids receiving cancer treatment.



Shoutout to our sworn, professional staff, and family members for volunteering their time to make the 2021 Shop with a Cop a success! Officers were paired with 22 local kids in need and enjoyed hot cocoa, shopping for family members, and wrapping gifts with their little buddies.



We hosted a holiday toy drive supporting the Castro Family Toy Drive serving kids receiving cancer treatment at the Ventura County Medical Center. In 2021, we collected so many toys they couldn't take them all! We also assisted with their drive-thru toy distribution event and were able to meet some families receiving gifts. This is one of our favorite initiatives.



For the first time, we partnered with Peirano's Market to host Culinary with Cops. Our team was paired with a local girl and enjoyed an evening chatting, learning about the restaurant industry, and making flower centerpieces and charcuterie boards! Just another way our team goes above and beyond!



THANK YOU, VENTURA, FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1425 DOWELL DRIVE
VENTURA, CA 93003
805.339.4400

www.VenturaPD.org

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 Ventura_PD

CITY OF
VENTURA
www.cityofventura.ca.gov